a 300 MWe Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) where most of its power will be derived from thorium based fuels. Implementation of AHWR will also help establish all the related technologies for production and reprocessing of fuels based on thorium.

Technology and fuel for nuclear power generation

†2209. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that some of the countries have refused to supply atomic technology and atomic fuel in lieu of atomic energy and India has to rely upon the old fuel; and

(b) if so, the names of such countries alongwith the reasons for their refusal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) We have been successfully implementing our atomic energy programme on the basis of our self reliant indigenous development despite restrictions in nuclear technologies and fuel by some countries. Requirements of fuel are met from indigenous mines and supplies from abroad in specific cases.

Nuclear radiation threat

2210. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
DR. KARAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central unit has been constituted that would act in time of nuclear radiation threat in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether its role has clearly been studied and defined at the time of crisis such as nuclear radiation threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) has been identified as the nodal agency to provide

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the necessary technical inputs for responding to any nuclear or radiation emergency in the country. For this purpose, it has a Crisis Management Group (CMG) comprising of senior officials, which can draw up on the technical resources of the units of the Department. The CMG is also the agency which will interact with the National Crisis Management Committee or with the concerned State Government which would be responding to any major emergency.

Further, an independent regulatory authority, the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), overseas radiation safety all over the country.

(c) Approved Emergency Plans are in place in all nuclear power plants before it is authorised for commissioning. The emergency plans are prepared by the State authorities with the active support of the plant management. They cover all necessary aspects.

Exemption of BARC reactors from AERB's inspection

2211. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that reactors of the Bombay Atomic Research Centre (BARC) are exempted from the purview of AERB;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) who can check the BARC reactors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) With a view to ensuring safety in strategic activities, it has been decided that, similar to mechanism adopted in other Nuclear Weapons State (NWS), regulatory and safety functions with respect to the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and its facilities, exercised by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), are exercised through the Internal Safety Committee Structure that has been constituted by the Director, BARC. While carrying out the above functions, BARC, *inter-alia*, ensures compliance with the principles of good safety management as given in the relevant safety codes, guides, standards, etc. developed by AERB and the acceptable limits of radiation exposure to the members of the public prescribed by AERB.